

A

LETTER

TO THE

LORD MAYOR, SHERIFFS, COMMONS
and CITIZENS,

OF THE

City of DUBLIN.



DUBLIN:

Printed in the YEAR, M,DCC,XI.

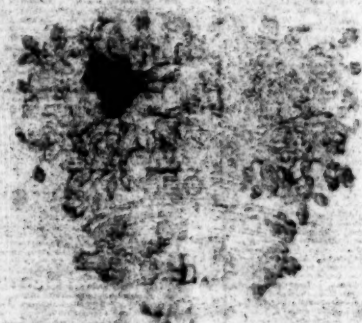
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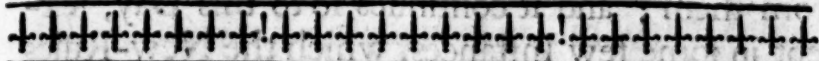
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LETTER, &c.

AS for some Time past, several Disputes have subsisted among the Members of the Corporation of the City of *Dublin*, relating to the Election of Aldermen, and also to several Rights claimed by the Common-Council of the City, in the Management of the Affairs of the City, it will not I hope be improper at this Time, to enquire into the Cause of such Disputes, and propose a Way for an amicable Accommodation of them.

I SHALL endeavour to do this, without giving the least Offence to any Party.

By the several Charters granted to the City of *Dublin*, the Citizens are made one constituent Part of the Corporation, which is to consist of Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Commons and Citizens, and by that Name, to have perpetual Succession, and all other Necessaries attending corporate Bodies.

UNDER these Charters, no Election to any Office, Place, or Employment in the Corporation, nor any other Act, could, or now can, be binding on the corporate Body, without the Consent of every constituent Part of it. The Citizens as well, as the three other Constituents, Lord Mayor, She-

riffs and Commons, or by Authority derived from them ; and it continues so to this Day, except in some few Instances, which the New-Rules have made, particularly the Election of Lord Mayor, Sheriffs and City Treasurer, which is now vested in the Lord Mayor and Aldermen only, and some Regulations as to the Election of the Commons of the City, no Way material to mention at present.

THERE is a Common-Council within the City, which by the New-Rules, was regulated and made to consist of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, who sit apart in a Room by themselves, and also of the Sheriffs and Sheriffs' Peers, and 96 Persons returned, from the several Guilds within the City, who sit apart in a Room by themselves, among whom the Sheriffs do preside.

THIS Common-Council are, as it is apprehended and insisted on, to act in the Nature of a Committee under the Corporation, and no Act of theirs can be binding on the corporate Body, till ratified and allowed of, by the Assembly of the whole corporate Body. For this Purpose, it is, and always has been, a Custom, that every general Quarter-Assembly Day, after the Common-Council have prepared and considered the several Matters necessary to be laid before the Assembly. The City Bell is rung, and the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Commons and Citizens, or as many of them as are pleased to attend, meet in the public Court-House of the City, and constitute a full Assembly of the City, and then the several Matters, which had been considered by the Common-Council, are read in this Assembly, and if approved of, then by the Sanction of that Court of Assembly,

Assembly, they become corporate Acts, binding on the Corporation of the City.

If any Matter is dis-allowed of, in that Assembly, it is insisted on by the Citizens, that it is absolutely void.

Tho' this Assembly has been constantly held every general Quarter-Assembly Day, yet few of the Citizens have attended, and for many Years past, no Objection has been made in this Assembly, to any Matter, which had been considered and allowed by the Common-Council, but the same have been constantly allowed and approved of, by this Assembly, and thereby became Acts of the general Assembly, and binding on the corporate Body.

THIS Court of Assembly being thus neglected by the Citizens, and the Acts of the Common-Council always confirmed of Course without any Opposition, it was then, as it is apprehended, thought adviseable to conceal the true Nature of that Court, and thereby take away from the Citizens, the Right of voting in the Assembly, either for Allowance or Disallowance of any Matter proposed there, and to insinuate that the Proceedings of the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Commons and Citizens, in the City-Court, after the Common-Council had broke up, was only to promulge and make known to the Corporation, what Acts had been done by the Common-Council; and to pretend that the meeting of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen in their Rooms, and the Sheriffs and Commons in their Rooms, did constitute an Assembly of the City, and that all Acts agreed on by them, were Acts of Assembly, binding on the Corporation, without any Allowance

ance or Consent of the Assembly, afterwards held in the City Court-House: And it is now alleged, that the Citizens have not any Right to vote in the Assembly held in the City Court, or to controul any of the Acts done by the Common-Council.

You now see the Cause of the Dispute between the Citizens and Aldermen, as to the Right of the Common-Council, and in my Apprehension, it may be easily determined and settled, provided the Aldermen will consent and agree to it, either by the Opinion of Council, or on solemn Tryal and Judgment at Law, founded on a special Verdict, and that without much Expence to either Party.

If the Aldermen are not willing or inclined to have this Part of the Dispute ended amicably, as proposed, it is incumbent on the Citizens to put it into a Way of Tryal, and they cannot want Opportunity when they please.

At the next general Quarter-Assembly, the Citizens may meet the rest of the corporate Body, consisting of Lord Mayor, Sheriffs and Commons, in the City Court, and join in one full Assembly of the corporate Body, and in a peaceable Manner, assert their Right, and if any Matter shall be brought into such Assembly, from the Common-Council, which shall be disagreeable to such Assembly, and not thought reasonable to be allowed, that they do then give their Vote for the Disallowances thereof.

BUT I would advise that this should be done in a regular, peaceable Manner, avoiding all Kind of Tumult and Irregularity in the Assembly.

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In that Assembly, it is usual for the Lord Mayor, for the Time being, or some other Person on his Behalf, to petition the Corporation, by the Name of *The Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Commons and Citizens of the City of Dublin*, to grant the Lord Mayor, a Sum of Money, in order to defray Part of his Expences of the Mayoralty: This Petition is usually allowed by the Common-Council, and such Allowance, after read in the Court of Assembly, when this Petition and Allowance, by the Common-Council, is mentioned in the Assembly, let a Question be proposed to be put, Whether the same be allowed by the Assembly or not?

If the same be not allowed, I imagine, the Town Clerk will be cautious enough, not to make any improper Entry on the City Rolls, as if the same had been allowed and ordered in full Assembly of the City; as will also, the City Treasurer, in Payment of any Money, without a real Act of Assembly to warrant such Payment.

It is possible, that in the same Assembly, several Persons will be mentioned, as appointed to City Offices and Employments; if any of those are disapproved of, in such Assembly, you may try their Title to those Offices.

THE Citizens can never want Opportunities to try this Right when they please. A legal Determination of the Case, lately laid before the Privy-Council, of the Election of Ballast-Master, will settle the Right of the Citizens in this Particular.

I WOULD therefore propose, that in order to quiet the Minds of the Citizens, and to promote Peace and good Agreement between them and the

the other constituent Parts of the corporate Body, that a Case be fairly drawn up, and stated and left to the Opinion of Council, for their Determination.

When that is ended, I think there will remain but one other Dispute of any Consequence between them; I mean that of the Election of Aldermen: This, I should think might easily be determined in the same Manner.

If these Proposals should not be received by the Aldermen, I apprehend the Citizens cannot be blamed, in endeavouring to recover and maintain their Rights and Privileges, by all lawful Ways and Means.

As a Citizen sworn to support the Rights and Franchises of the City, I think myself bound to do, and therefore shall, as far as in my Power lies, by all lawful Ways and Means, endeavour to support the Rights and Privileges of my Fellow Citizens.

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A CITIZEN.

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